

REMARKS

Status of the Claims and Claim Amendments

Claims 1-6, 8-14 and 48-49 were pending. Claims 5, 6, 8-10 and 13 were allowed.

Claim 1 is amended herein to include the limitations of previous claim 9, which was indicated as allowable. Claim 9 is canceled herein as redundant with amended claim 1. Claim 49 is amended to depend from claim 1. Applicants submit that no new matter is added by amendment.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-4, 11-12, 14 and 48-49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Hansen (WO 91/08770, 1991) in view of Barbet (U.S. 5,256,395, 1993). Claims 5, 6, 8-10 and 13 were indicated as free of the prior art.

Claim 1 is amended herein to incorporate the limitations of previous claim 9, which was indicated as free of the prior art. All pending claims now depend from claim 1 (amended to include the limitations of previous claim 9) or claims 5, 8 or 13, each of which was indicated to be free of the prior art. Applicants thus submit that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

For the reasons stated above, Applicants submit that the amended claims are in condition for allowance and request withdrawal of the rejections and issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: June 11, 2008

/Richard A. Nakashima/

Richard A. Nakashima
Reg. No. 42,023
303-828-4924